Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection

Introduction

The history of the Yale family spans more than a millennium and involves five countries—France, England, Ireland, Wales, and the United States. According to long-standing family tradition, a Yale ancestor, the Norman Walter fitz Other, fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. His descendants were prominent medieval lords in England and were among the leaders in the twelfth-century invasion and settlement of Ireland.

In the thirteenth century, an ancestor, Osborn Wyddel (born c. 1230), migrated from Ireland to Wales and settled in Merioneth. The Yale lineage from Osborn is well documented and can be traced with confidence to the present day.

One of Osborn's descendants, Ellis ap Griffith, acquired the Plas-yn-Yale estate through marriage around 1450. It is believed that the 15th century version of the Yale Coat of Arms would have been mounted over the entrance of the estate and would have closely resembled this reconstruction:

Ellis ap Griffith's grandson, John Yale (born c. 1525), and his brother Thomas, were the first to use the **Yale surname,** which is now over 500 years old.

The Yales arrived in the American colonies in 1638, nearly 150 years before the American Revolution.

Figure 1: Reconstruction of the 15th-century Yale Arms

Over the next four centuries, the Yale family served as leaders, inventors, merchants, and soldiers:

- Yales served, and in some cases died, in the Colonial Wars, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the major conflicts of the twentieth century.
- Elihu Yale (1649–1721), served as Governor of the East India Company in Madras and became the namesake of Yale University.
- Moses Yale Beach (1800–1868) pioneered the penny press in New York and is said to be one of the founders of the Associated Press.
- Linus Yale Jr. (1821–1868) was an inventor in lock design and co-founder of the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company.
- In the twentieth century, notable Yales in San Diego include Superior Court Judge William A. Yale (1926–2010) and aerospace engineer Max R. Yale (1918–1997) , who contributed to the Apollo program that placed the first Americans on the moon in 1969.

Few American family genealogies are as extensively documented as that of the Yales. In 1850, the New Haven, Connecticut genealogist Elihu Yale (1807–1881) published *The Yale Family*, an ambitious effort to record all known Yales in the United States, as well as ancestral lines in England and Wales. This work formed the foundation of Rodney Horace Yale's 1908 volume, *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*, which remains widely cited by modern genealogical sources. Rodney's grandson, Don Yale, later served as the family historian and, together with his brothers, produced the expanded 1980 edition of that work, commonly known as *The Yales and Wales*.

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In 2025, after many years of independent research, Max Brian Yale prepared fully sourced biographies with citations of each ancestor in the line of descent of Rodney Horace Yale, along with many of his descendants. They can be found on Archive.Org as the *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*.

The Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection

The collection includes Manuscripts, Artififacts, a Research Library, A large collection of old phonographs, some CD's and audio/video tapes, and Genealogy Website Profiles. The manuscripts are organized into three series:

- Yale Line biographies (direct male ancestors of Rodney Horace Yale, along with several of his descendants)
- Extended Family biographies (selected biographies of historically significant extended family members).
- Reference Materials. Guides, Indexes, Articles on Coat of Arms, DNA Testing, etc.

The **Yale Line** contains biographical manuscripts which have been assigned volume numbers in chronological order (see the archive.org "Volume" metadata tag associated with each document):

Vol	Name	Born	Died	Notes
1	Dominus Otho	1006	bef.1086	From Normandy
2	Walter fitz Other	1037	bef.1116	Was in the Battle of Hastings, 1066
3.1	Gerald fitz Walter	1075	1136	Castellan of Windsor
3.2	Princess Nesta	1080	aft, 1139	Wife of Gerald fitz Walter; "Helen of Wales"
4	Maurice FitzGerald	1105	1176	Invaded Ireland; Progenitor of the Geraldines
5	Thomas FitzMaurice	1145	1213	Lord of Shanid, Ireland
6	John FitzThomas	1195	1261	Lord Palatine of Desmond;Died at Battle of Callann
7	Osborn Wyddel	1230	1293	First Welsh Ancestor; Obtained Cors-y-Gedol estate
8	Cynric ap Osborn	1270	1343	Inherited Cors-y-Gedol
9	Llewelyn ap Cynric	1300	1343	Inherited Cors-y-Gedol; Obtained Ynys-y-Maengwyn
10	Griffith ap Llewelyn	1325	1399	Inherited Cors-y-Gedol; Sheriff of Merioneth
11	Einion ap Griffith	1360	1400	Inherited Cors-y-Gedol; Captain of Archers
12	Griffith ap Einion	1382	1450	Obtained the 10,000 acre Gwyddelwern barony
13	Ellis ap Griffith	1427	1489	Obtained Plas-yn-Yale through marriage
14	David Lloyd ap Ellis	1487	1570	Inherited Plas-yn-Yale
15.1	John Yale	1525	1572	First to use "Yale" surname
15.2	Thomas Yale, L.L.D.	1526	1577	Brother of John Yale; Dean of High Arches
16	David Yale, D.C.L.	1540	1626	Chancellor of Chestor; Obtained Plas Grono
17.1	Thomas Yale	1586	1619	Father of the American Immigrants; Died young
17.2	Ann Lloyd Yale	1595	1659	Wife of Thomas Yale; Remarried Theophilus Eaton
18	Thomas Yale Jr.	1616	1683	Puritan and Landholder in New Haven Colony
19	Capt. Thomas Yale	1648	1736	First ancestor born in America; Capt. of Train Band
20	Theophilus Yale	1675	1760	Assemblyman and Justice of the Peace
21	Elihu Yale	1703	1745	Died in Nova Scotia during the Siege of Louisbourg
22	Elisha Yale	1742	1825	Captain in the Revolutionary War
23	Elisha Yale Jr.	1763	1840	Farmer in Canaan, Conn.
24	Heman Yale	1781	1825	Farmer; Fought in the War of 1812
25	Gad Lowrey Yale	1810	1882	Farmer in Lynn Township, Ill.
26	Rodney Horace Yale	1864	1937	Author of 1908 Yale Genealogy
27	Dean Everitt Yale	1892	1943	Realtor in San Diego, Ca.
28	Max Raymond Yale	1918	1997	Aerospace Engineer
29	Max Brian Yale	1947	Present	Chief Information Officer; Author
30	Christopher Brian Yale	1968	Present	Applications Development Director; Web site owner
31	Max Westcott Yale	2001	Present	MS degree from Clemson

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The **Extended Family** within the collection is ever-expanding, but currently includes:

- Giraldus Cambrensis (1146–1223): Cleric and historian; grandson of Princess Nesta.
- Thomas Yale, L.L.D. (1526–1577): Most senior judge of the Church of England from 1567 to 1573
- Elihu Yale: (1649–1721): Yale University Namesake; East India Company Governor of Madras
- William Alton Yale (1926–2010): Presiding Judge of the San Diego County Superior Court
- Norman C. Roberts: (1920–2009): Prominent La Jolla Businessman and Community Leader

In addition to this guide, **Reference Materials** in the collection includes:

- Yale Genealogical Collection: Directory of Biographies and Online Sources. Use this document to quickly access any ancestor's biography in Rodney Horace Yale's book, in the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection, or on related websites (Wikitree, FamilySearch, Wikipedia).
- Yale Family DNA Test Results. See how DNA testing relates to the Yale Line of descent.
- Yale Family Coat of Arms: Origin and History. The Yale coat of arms has its own history and evolution.
- 1718 Land Tax Assessment for the Parish of LLanfyllin, Montgomeryshire, Wales. A review of the original document that is part of the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.

Each manuscript in Archive.Org contains descriptive information (metadata) which includes active links to the ancestor on WikiTree, FamilySearch, and in many cases, Find a Grave.

Research Notes

The Yale Family lineage has three unresolved issues that need further research:

- **Dominus Other**. Possibly our first known ancestor was probably a Norman but may have been English or even Italian.
- **Osborn Wyddel**. Was he really the son of Maurice FitzThomas? If so, our ancestry can be traced back to about 960, but if not, our ancestry begins around 1250 with this Irish immigrant to Wales.
- **John Yale of Plas-yn-Yale.** Was he really the father of Dr. David Yale, or, was his brother, Thomas Yale, LL.D., Chancellor and Dean of Arches of the High Court, the true biological father? .

Contact: Max Brian Yale at WikiTree: https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Yale-863

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